

A
DISSERTATION
ON THE
BARK,
WHEREIN A NEW
PREPARATION

Is recommended to the Public, called,
HUNT'S TINCTURE.

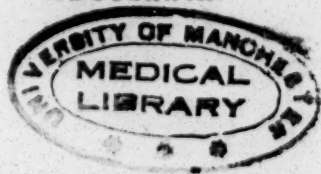
By a FRIEND of the PROPRIETOR'S.



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DESSERTATION

ON THE

BRAK

WHEN A NEW

PREPARATION

Is recommended to the Public, called

HUNT'S TINCTURE.



By a friend of the University of Maryland.

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P R E F A C E.

IF the ambition of appearing in print was my principal motive for offering the following pages to the public, I should have little reason to expect their clemency and indulgence: But as my chief motive for writing is to inform the public, concerning a very capital Preparation, of that most valuable medicine the Bark, I hope the candid reader will make all proper allowances. I think it necessary to give a preparatory explanation of my design, lest the Treatise itself should prove too intricate for general information. An elaborate Dissertation on the Bark, is not to be expected; neither do I wish to extend my subject a single page beyond what is absolutely necessary. The extent of

my expectation is, that this may serve the purpose of a circulating advertisement, and save both the trouble and expence of weekly appearing in the public papers.

It is not my intention to impose this on the public, as an antidote to all disorders; or to prove that the dispensatory prescriptions are void of every degree of merit: I only wish to convince the reader, that they are imperfect, and prevail on every individual to make a trial of this Tincture (in all cases where the Peruvian Bark is proper to be taken) and I have no doubt but it will recommend itself to the public, and render future encomiums unnecessary.

Would the gentlemen of the faculty condescend to direct its use, I have great reason to believe it would do
credit

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credit to their practice. To my knowledge, it has met with the approbation of several physicians, who have frequently prescribed it with great success, and strenuously expressed their desire of having it made public.

The quantity disposed of within the narrow circle in which it has yet been published (by verbal information) is a sufficient proof that it may be safely taken in common cases, without the advice of the faculty, by only attending to the printed directions; a copy of which is inserted in the latter end of this Treatise.

It will be necessary to observe, that I am not pleading my own cause, but have presumptively taken upon me to write for the proprietor of this valuable discovery. If this undertaking meets with his approbation, which I shall

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humbly solicit, I think I cannot do a more essential service to mankind, than by giving public information of the existence of this Tincture. Though I am not writing directly to the medical gentlemen, yet, as this may come under their inspection, I think it necessary to bespeak their partiality, and hope they will not directly condemn this Tincture on account of the imperfections of my reasoning.

To Mr. THOMAS HUNT, SURGEON,
at LOUGHBRO', in the County of Leicester,

*Who first discovered the Preparation, and is
now sole Proprietor of this*

TINCTURE of BARK.

THERE are innumerable circumstances, which I could instance, that would induce a young writer to intreat your patronage; but to avoid every appearance of flattery, I will only mention, that notwithstanding the great advantages I derived from your attention to me, when under your care, yet I could not wish to use your name as a sanction to the imperfections of the following pages; and, lest my ignorance should prove another's disgrace, I have carefully avoided every solicitation of the kind, and, unprotected, offer the following observations to the public censure.

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If I should so far succeed as to induce the public to make trial of your Tincture of Bark, I humbly intreat that you will oblige me, by supplying their demands. And believe me happy in this opportunity of acknowledging that

I am, S I R,

Your most obliged,

And obedient,

Humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

On



On the B A R K.

DR. STERN, in his Treatise on Consumptions, after recommending the use of a Balsamic Æther, by fumigation, when mentioning the great efficacies of the Peruvian Bark, in those cases, says :

“ If I am not much mistaken in my conjectures, it is possible to condense the active principles of the Peruvian Bark into a very small compass, and thereby rendering it a much more agreeable and efficacious medicine. As for the use of the Bark in consumptions, I believe it to be an excellent medicine, but dislike it in substance for many reasons, and am no less dissatisfied with all the known preparations.”

No doubt but numbers of the faculty have experienced the same inconveniences, which I have great reason to hope are now conquered ; that every desire expressed above is gratified ;

fied ; and that the long wished for Preparation is compleated, which contains every useful particle of the Bark, and in as little space as possible. I have seen greater effects from one tea spoonful of this Tincture, than from a whole ounce of Bark, either administered in substance, or in any common preparation. During my apprenticeship with the author of this valuable discovery, I had daily proofs of its superior excellencies ; and by a few cases, that I then thought worth observation, I hope to make it as evident to the reader, as it now appears to myself ; that this Tincture is the lightest preparation that is, or perhaps ever will be discovered. And that (in all probability) it contains every particle, that can be of the least use in medicine.

It is not in my power to give a chymical account of this Preparation ; and if it was, I should think it a duty incumbent on me not to do it, at the expence of my friend : but as I am not acquainted with the secret, there can be no danger of my mentioning a word, on which any presumptuous person can vainly pretend to the least knowledge of this valuable Arcanum, whilst I am endeavouring to prove, by chymical observations, that this improvement has not only appeared very possible, but
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proved the fruitless labours of able chymists for years.

From chymical analysis, it appears, that the medicinal qualities of the Bark exist in its resinous, gummous, and earthy particles; that the woody, or common receptacle of them all, is the *caput mortuum*. That no preparation, except this Tincture, does contain the three first particles, I shall endeavour to explain: but that I may not build too much, on my own weak foundation, I will examine what Dr. FRIEND says about gums and resins, in his “Chymical Lecture on Fermentation, &c.” with a design to prove the reasons of all that variety observed in solution, viz. “Let us take, “for instance, water and spirits of wine, whose “natures are quite different, for salts will “easily dissolve in the first, because the aqueous “particles are more strongly attracted by the “saline particles, than they are by one another; whereas in spirits of wine, which is “indeed much lighter than water, but more “impregnated with saline particles, they continue untouched. So that the particles of “the spirit, upon account of the minuteness “of their bulk, attracting one another more “strongly than they do the salts, are not able “to break the cohesion of the particles of salts.

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“ On the other hand, spirit of wine easily dissolves resin, which water can by no means do; the particles of resin seem to be so closely united, and compact, as to leave but very small interstices, into which the corpuscles of water can enter: but those of the spirit can very easily, because their bulk is much smaller.”

From which it appears, that the common dispensatory prescriptions are very imperfect; that as spirit of wine will not dissolve gummy bodies, and if I may suppose, that the earthy particles to be much of the same nature, in respect to solution with neutral salts, the common tincture can partake of none, but the resinous particles of the Bark. And as gums, and neutral salts are easily dissolved in an aqueous menstruum, the extracts and decoctions contain these and no other. So that the officinal preparations, that is, the tincture and extract, contain each their respective different particles. Not that I suppose, but every gentleman of the faculty was as sensible of those imperfections before, as after reading these observations. The reader must not expect so full an account of the Preparation I wish to recommend; the method I shall take for that purpose, will be to describe a few cases, in which
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it has shewn its superior qualifications, which, I hope, will give greater satisfaction than the most refined hypothesis: Not that a fuller explanation would be of the least use even to the physical reader; and I hope the following assertion will prove satisfactory to the most curious peruser. The utmost limits of my knowledge of this tincture is, that it is no more than a rich solution of the Bark, without any addition, either as a disguise to the composition, or to give it the appearance of virtues that it does not possess. After what has been said, if it should be asked, what advantages may be expected from this Tincture being so strongly impregnated? And, may not the other preparations answer equally the same purpose, when given in quantities proportionate to their different qualities? I should answer, first, it is shewn above, that no preparation does possess, or even partake of, all the various particles, which this does. And, secondly, that this has other advantages; that from the lightness of the composition, it never disagrees with the weakest stomach, or offends the most delicate constitution, that is in those cases where the administration of the Bark is proper; not that this, any more than the common preparations, possess an absolute quality, to banish fevers, agues, &c. when, contrary to the received

ceived method of practice, it is imprudently given during the paroxysm.

But reducing a preparation of the Bark to a form, that would convey a proper quantity into the habit, was the principal difficulty to be overcome, as appears from an observation of Dr. WHITT'S, where he says, "That the Bark in substance frequently disagrees with delicate stomachs, and occasions sickness, gripes, and sometimes looseness." Now, as the common decoction is much lighter than either the powder, or the extract, the only motive for giving it in substance, must be with a design of procuring what is not in the power of a light preparation to effect; concluding that nature is the best chymist, more capable than art of effecting a solution, and chusing those parts most proper for her purpose. But if giving in substance is absolutely necessary (he further observes,) "That red wine of all others, is the best vehicle."

Now, if a method is discovered, by which the active particles of the Bark are separated from the dead mass; also a proper menstruum to suspend them; is not this method of giving it much better, than to depend on the precarious operation of an infirm, if not disorder-
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ed stomach; where the lightest aliment undergoes but an imperfect digestion? However plausible this reasoning may appear to a person, who has never heard of this Tincture before, it is still subject to a few difficulties. For instance, the following objections were personally stated to me, by a gentleman of the faculty of great practice, and equal eminence. He candidly acknowledged that he believed, that this Preparation possessed every particle of the Bark that had any medicinal quality, and in as little compass as necessary. These are as great encomiums, as I could expect, or even wish for, from a person, whose opinion is accompanied with good authority. But he further proceeded with the following objections: That he supposed the menstruum was a high alcohol, and therefore not proper for all constitutions; instancing, in support of his opinion, that supposing two tea-spoonfuls of this Tincture was equal to a common dose of the Bark, and this repeated three times, or even but twice a day: He thought that four tea-spoonfuls of a spirit as strong as good brandy, even when mixed with water, was too much for any lady, and more than some gentlemen would think proper to take daily, for such a space of time, as a course of the Bark is sometimes necessary to be pursued.

He also instanced, that it might occasion a propensity to dram drinking, and when the patient left off the Bark, perhaps some more palatable cordial might be thought necessary, as a substitute. This would be a horrid circumstance, and if suffered to remain, without proper investigation, sufficient to deter the more delicate part of our species (who have the greatest occasion for medicines of this kind) from ever tasting this Tincture. But as neither of us properly understood the subject of our discourse, we concluded with little satisfaction to either parties. These are objections that merit deliberate consideration; and I hope the following answers will prove satisfactory to the most prejudiced person. My principal motive for laying these objections before the public, was, that as one person had, I thought it not impossible but others might make the same.

The method I adopted for overcoming these difficulties was, first to lay our conversation before the proprietor of this Tincture, for his opinion; who positively, upon his honour, asserted that the menstruum was but a few degrees stronger than port wine; that it was the minutia of the resinous particles of the Bark, which affected the mouth with that warm taste;

taste ; but the addition of a proper quantity of water, either with, or without a little wine, blunted their asperity, and destroyed every foundation for this objection. At the same time he observed, that a more convincing proof he could not give, without entering into too strict an explanation of the Preparation, which neither I, or the public have any reason to expect. For my opinion, I must refer the reader to the chymical enquiries above, where it is shewn, that a high rectified spirit will not dissolve gummous bodies ; so that those who support, that this menstruum is a high rectified alcohol, also must deny there being any gummous particles in the Tincture ; the contrary of which, is too evident to admit a doubt, as appears by its colour, and specific gravity. For further proofs of the efficacies of this Tincture, the following cases will plead with more convincing impartiality.

C A S E I.

Mrs. S———n, a strong woman, who had advanced to the age of eighty years without much illness, was suddenly seized with a Paralysis of the lower limbs, under which she laboured for a considerable time, without receiving the least advantage from the medicines

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that are generally prescribed in such cases, until the confinement to her bed; and a languid circulation became the primary causes of a mortification of the lower extremities; which, happy for the poor woman, was not very rapid in its progress, as her place of residence was a considerable distance from her surgeon, who, on the first appearance of this new complaint, applied warm cataplasms, &c. and gave her a strong decoction of the Bark, with proper cordials internally. Notwithstanding all his attention and care, this alarming distemper daily, nay hourly gaining ground, and from the most favourable prognosis, it was thought that death must shortly ensue. At this critical period, her surgeon determined to try the effects of his Tincture of Bark. He saw his patient late in the evening, when finding every application had proved unsuccessful, he laid all former applications aside; and first washed the mortified parts with some of this Tincture of Bark, and then applied lint, and over that flannel well impregnated with the same, made as warm as it conveniently could; and directed as great a quantity of the same Tincture, as her stomach could dispense with, to be given till he saw her again. The following morning, about ten o'clock, he re-visited his patient, which was near twelve hours after the application of the
above

above. This being the first experiment of the kind, the surgeon was very doubtful of its success, and rather expected to find his patient much worse, if not dead. But to his great astonishment, she had rested well, felt but little pain; and her pulse, which over night was very languid and weak, was much increased in strength, and beat between eighty and ninety, in a minute. Upon examining the parts affected, he found them much better, the putrid stench entirely gone, and some appearance of an approaching digestion, which a repetition of the same application effected by the next morning: In a few days the mortified parts began to separate; the external use of the Tincture was then omitted, and common dressings daily applied, under which treatment the patient speedily recovered: The paralytic complaints were much mitigated, and she enjoyed as good health (as an old woman could expect) for seven years after.

R E M A R K.

As this case happened before I was acquainted with Mr. HUNT, and he gave me only a verbal account, it was impossible for me to describe it, with that accuracy it required. But though I had not an opportunity of seeing

ing the patient, her surviving relation gave me sufficient testimony of the fact. Not that I can positively assert that the Bark thus applied, was the only means of effecting a cure: but from circumstances it appears to have been of infinite service. For nature in this, as well as many other cases, might, after every probable endeavour had been tried in vain, and at that critical moment that resource was had to the above method, by some secret operation, effect what I am willing to attribute solely to the excellencies of this Tincture.

To descend within the limits of my own observation, the following case was the first that I thought worthy my attention.

C A S E II.

Mr. G——r, a married man, of a delicate constitution, between thirty and forty years of age, after a violent attack of a low nervous fever, at a proper crisis, when the urine deposited a laudible sediment, and every other symptom indicated the immediate use of the Bark, a decoction of an ounce in the pint, with the addition of one ounce of the simple Tincture, and half an ounce of the compound spirit of lavender, was prescribed: of which
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he took about six ounces in a day. But the weak state of our patient's stomach soon put an end to this method, and recourse was had to neutral medicines, with nervous cordials, &c. which were the only things his stomach could bear. After two days perseverance in the above method, a second attempt was made with the Bark, in substance with snake root, and a small quantity of nitre; but this attempt, like the former, proved abortive. About one tea-spoonful of this Tincture of Bark was then given in a glass of red wine and water, which sat very easy on his stomach, and was repeated every five or six hours for two days. At proper periods the dose was gradually increased to three tea-spoonfuls, and afterwards taken only twice a day. The patient had no more returns of his fever, his appetite mended daily; and gentle exercise, with perseverance in taking this Tincture, soon perfected a cure.

R E M A R K.

Whatever conclusion the reader may put on this description, it is my opinion, that this Tincture was the only preparation of the Bark, that our patient's stomach could bear, or that could have been given with either safety, or advantage.

C A S E III.

Mrs. B——, a thin delicate person, had been troubled with the third day ague for a long time. After following the directions of the faculty in town for near nine months, without receiving any benefit, she made a journey into the country, for the benefit of the air; where she fortunately fell under the care of Mr. HUNT. He first gave her the common preparations of the Bark, from which she received not the least advantage. This Tincture was then tried, which gave immediate relief; and by continuing its use, she soon acquired a better state of health than she had enjoyed for years before.

C A S E IV.

Mr. E——e, a single man, near the age of forty, a free drinker, not only of malt but spirituous liquors, (an infelicity entailed on the male line of the family) was consequently troubled with frequent disorders of his stomach; which an emetic, and a few common stomachic medicines never failed to remove.

In the month of *June*, 1778, he was seized with some alarming symptoms of the peripneumonia,

neumonia, which, with the treatment common in such cases, soon disappeared. In rather more than a month after, his stomach complaints returned, with nausea, loss of appetite, indigestion, and sometimes a diarrhœa. An emetic was prescribed, and afterwards small doses of rhubarb, &c. But as my design in describing this case, is on account of some particular symptoms, occasioned by the Bark, I shall omit a tedious history, and content myself with observing, that our patient's complaints terminated in a nervous atrophy.

Paliating medicines, as particular symptoms required, were occasionally prescribed; but our principal dependence was on the Bark, which was first given in infusion, for a few days; and afterwards in substance, in the following forms, viz. Powders, electuaries, and pills of the extract; these were separately persevered in for a considerable time; but finding little, or no benefit, our patient determined to desist, and wait till nature should open a clearer avenue to the foundation of his disorder. His complaints daily increased, and medicine (for a time) was entirely laid aside, until the disagreeable paroxysms of a scorching fever, obliged him once more to submit to the rules of medicine. Neutral mixtures, and small doses of rhubarb, with
nitre,

nitre, prov'd very efficacious, to give him temporary relief; which was the extent of our expectations. But, notwithstanding our patient had never been troubled with costiveness during his whole illness, yet, at the declension of this fever, the Bark that he had taken months before, began to appear in his fæces. His attendants, who immediately attributed this second illness to the Bark only, asserted, that above two pounds was discharged in the space of a fortnight; but the absurdity of antiquated nurses does not merit our attention, in a matter of so great importance; for upon examination, it appears that all he took, did not amount to that quantity. As before observed, our patient's complaints first began in *June*; in *August* he began with the Bark, the latter end of *October* he desisted taking that, or any other medicines, until the 22d of *November*; at which time the fever made its appearance; from which period universal weakness, attended with a constant pain in the lower parts of the abdomen, were the prevailing symptoms, which continued till the *April* following, when death closed the final scene.

R E M A R K,

From the above case it appears, that the Bark in substance, is long retained in the bowels;

els; not that the same inconveniences may always attend this method, as it may, in a great measure, be attributed to the feeble state of the subject. But as Nature, in the major part of the brute creation, as well as in the human species, directs that the aliment undergoes some preparation before it is received into the stomach; and cookery was first instituted, with an intent of reducing hard substance to a fit state for more easy digestion; is it not as necessary that medicines, particularly those of a solid kind, should undergo some chymical preparation, before they are ordered for the immediate use of the patient? and more so, as the stomachs of valetudinarians (for whose use medicines are chiefly directed) are not supposed to be in a fit state for powerful operations, or to dissolve whatever may be imprudently administered. I am also of opinion, that when the light infusion was not found to be sufficient, had this Tincture been prescribed, we should have succeeded much better, and have avoided those disagreeable symptoms that followed, which appear to have been occasioned by the lignous particles of the Bark absorbing the bile, &c. and depriving the intestines of that stimulous, which is necessary to procure an expulsion of their contents; when, at the same time, the stomach was not capable of extracting

tracting the active particles, and fitting them for circulation.

It is not necessary to intrude on the reader's patience, by adding more cases, as they all tend to prove the same thing; and if further information is thought necessary, I recommend an impartial experiment, which, if directed with propriety, will give ocular demonstration of what I have hypothetically advanced.

The following laconic, and no less modest composition, is the Advertisement that the Proprietor gives, as a common direction; of which particular mention is made in the Preface.

HUNT'S

H U N T's

STOMACHIC and FEBRIFUGE

T I N C T U R E.

FOR the cure of *agues*, or intermitting and remitting *fevers*; and in all feverish disorders in the head and teeth, where there is an intermission or remission of the pain. In all delicate and tender constitutions, relaxed and weak stomachs, attended with loss of appetite and indigestion.

To enlarge, or expatiate on the virtues of this Tincture, would make it appear as an empirical medicine, which would be a great imposition on the public; it being inconsistent with reason, that any one medicine can be endowed with such universal properties, as to eradicate all diseases, or agree with all constitutions. But I can, from facts, in several years practice, recommend it with candour to the public, for the above recited disorders; and in all cases where the *Peruvian*, or *Jesuits Bark*, is recommended to be taken.

Directions

Directions for taking.

In *agues*, intermitting or remitting fevers, and also all feverish disorders of the head and teeth, take four large tea-spoons full of this Tincture, every two or three hours, in a cup of red wine and water (first boiling in the water a little cinnamon, and a blade of mace) when the *fever* is off, or in a remission; and also in the intermission, or remission of the pain in the head or teeth.

When you have missed a *fit*, take it three times a day, for eight days; then omit a week, and take it twice a day for a month, which will prevent the *fever* returning.

In all *delicate* and tender *constitutions*, and in weak and *relaxed stomachs*, &c. take three or four tea-spoonfuls every day, an hour before dinner, and at four or five o'clock in the afternoon, in a cup of *chamomile flower* tea, cold, or in a glass of *Pyrmont*, or *German-Spa* water.

The *dose* to children is from ten drops to two tea-spoons full, which is encreasing the *dose* ten drops for every year's advancement in age, from one year to twelve years of age.

N. B. If

N. B. If the *stomach* is loaded, or the patient complains of *sickness*, or inclination to *vomit*, I would advise a *vomit* of *ipécacuan*, to be given before he begins with this Tincture.

It only remains, that I inform the reader, that this Tincture of Bark is solely prepared by Mr. THOMAS HUNT, at LOUGHBRO', in the County of *Leicester*; and that by application to him, or the Publisher of this Pamphlet, it may be had in any quantity, at terms suitable to circumstances, and the purchaser's intentions.

F I N I S.

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W. B. If the steam is loaded, or the patient complains of weakness, or inclination to vomit, I would advise a vomit of ipecacuanha, to be given before he begins with this Tincture.

It only remains, that I inform the reader, that this Tincture of Bark is solely prepared by Mr. THOMAS HUNT, at Loughboro', in the County of Essex; and that by application to him, or the Publisher of this Pamphlet, it may be had in any quantity, at terms suitable to circumstances, and the purchaser's intentions.

